

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 10672 090725Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EB-08 ISO-00 SSO-00 /021 W
-----009819 090728Z /14
O R 090656Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2352
USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

UNCLAS HONG KONG 10672

STATE FOR JOE BORICH, EA/PRCM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, HK, KS, TW, US
SUBJECT: SEMINAR ON U.S. REGULATIONS ON CONSUMER PRODUCTS

REF: (A) STATE 196392; (B) TAIPEI 5112

1. CHINA EXTERNAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IN TAIPEI HAS SENT FOLLOWING TELEX TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CECIL CHAN OF FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES (FHKI). QUOTE:

REURTLX AUG. 4 LETTER JUL 24 WE PREFER TO HAVE ALL CPSC SPEAKERS AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED AND WE MAY ALSO POSTPONE SEMINAR IF THEY CAN COME LATER. HOWEVER, IF CPSC DECISION IS FINAL AND ONLY MR. DAVID THOME IS COMING, WE PROPOSE TO CANCEL THE SEMINAR AS WE DON'T THINK OUR BUSINESSMEN WILL BE INTERESTED IN MR. THOME'S SUBJECT. UNQUOTE.

2. FHKI HAS CONTACTED CONSULATE TO EXPRESS CONCERN REGARDING FOREGOING MESSAGE FROM ITS TAIWAN COUNTERPART AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT ORGANIZERS OF THE SEOUL SEMINAR MAY ALSO TAKE A SIMILAR POSITION IF CPSC IS UNABLE TO SEND THREE REPRESENTATIVES AS ORIGINALLY PROMISED. FHKI NOTES THAT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE THREE
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ORGANIZATIONS WAS TO SHARE THE AIRFARES FOR THE NON-CPSC EXPERTS FROM THE U.S.WHO HAD AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN SEMINARS. ALTHOUGH FHKI HAD EARLIER THOUGHT IT COULD MAKE DO WITH ONLY THOME FROM THE CPSC, THIS WAS BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT TAIPEI AND SEOUL SPONSORS WOULD ALSO BE READY TO PROCEED WITH ONE CPSC REPRESENTATIVE IN ATTENDANCE. HOWEVER, IF FHKI IS FACED WITH NEED TO COVER ALL NON-CPSC AIR FARES, IT WILL PROBABLY BE

COMPELLED TO CANCEL THE HONG KONG SEMINAR.

3. CONGEN SUGGESTS TAIPEI EXPLORE WITH CETDC THE FEASIBILITY OF HOLDING SEMINAR WITH JUST ONE CPSC REPRESENTATIVE (THOME) IN SPITE OF HARD LINE IN ITS TELEX. FROM TELCONS WITH DEPARTMENT, WE OBTAINED IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE LUCKY TO GET THOME. IF CETDC CANNOT BE PERSUADED AND EMBASSY TAIPEI SHARES THE CONCERN ABOUT ABRUPT REDUCTION USG SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT, WE MAY HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO REQUEST DEPARTMENT TO URGE MS. KING TO HONOR ORIGINAL COMMITMENT. BEFORE DOING SO, HOWEVER, WE FEEL WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PERSUADE ALL THREE PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS TO PROCEED AS CURRENTLY PROPOSED.

4. FOR TAIPEI: WOULD APPRECIATE FEEDBACK BY CABLE.

5. FOR SEOUL: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INDICATION YOU MAY GET OF WAVERING AND EFFORT TO HOLD LINE IF SUCH SITUATION DEVELOPS.
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